

Let's Talk About Lochgelly Community Engagement Report

Authors: Annie Cook; Rachel Nixseaman

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Background & Purpose

Fife Council commissioned [Deciding Matters](#), a neutral, Scotland based, participatory democracy organisation to host two deliberative workshops on 11th October and 18th October aimed specifically at the local community organisations and stakeholders to develop recommendations for future town planning. The outcomes of this engagement are collated into this report which is shared with both Fife Council and engagement participants. The sessions were an opportunity for the local community to directly inform Fife Council's approach to future town planning of Lochgelly, in particular the use of town halls.

Fife Council was excited to engage the local community in an open dialogue about the future of Lochgelly's town halls and their use, in particular, Lochgelly Town Hall, St Andrews Church and Lochgelly Centre. This included a discussion about overall town planning, amenities, and infrastructure. Fife Council intend to use community input, alongside consideration of the needs and aspirations of residents, regarding the future of the Lochgelly Town Hall that has been in a state of disrepair and is nearing the end of its life. Fife Council invited organisations who would be directly impacted by the changing use of Council spaces to send a delegate to participate in activities.

Fife Council also consulted the community with a public online survey between 16th September-8th October, a youth engagement session on 14th October and an open-to-all in Lochgelly drop-in session on 24th October. This report combines results in the form of an executive summary which is a thematic overview of recommendations however specific ideas are in each section including workshop summaries, survey responses, youth engagement and public drop-in including practical suggestions for change. Deciding Matters recommends anyone reading this report to read each section for ideas for change in detail.

Deciding Matters Delivery Team





Project Lead: Annie Cook






Facilitators: Rachel Nixseaman and Annie Cook

Executive Summary

Fife Council commissioned Deciding Matters, a participatory democracy organisation, to host two participatory workshops and Fife Council hosted consultations with the wider Lochgelly community to gather feedback and ideas for the future development of the town. This engagement process brought input together from local stakeholders, community groups, and members of the public to discuss their hopes, fears, and vision for Lochgelly, with a particular focus on the use of public spaces and facilities including the Lochgelly Town Hall, Lochgelly Centre, and St Andrews Church.

The workshops and consultations revealed several key priorities and recommendations from the Lochgelly community:

Recommendation	Additional Information
<p>Enhance youth provision and activities</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish free or low-cost youth clubs, sports programs, and alternative education opportunities for young people. • Engage youth in shaping and delivering community activities and initiatives – deliver activities on a youth needs-and-wants based approach.
<p>Improve communication and promotion of local services and events</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a centralised platform (physical and digital) to share information on community activities, resources, and support services. This includes a physical Lochgelly billboard stationed centrally outside the pharmacy with monthly activities, news, and contacts. • Ensure communication channels reach all residents, not just those online.
<p>Establish a dedicated council presence in Lochgelly</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Station a council officer in the Lochgelly Centre or other central location to provide support, signposting, and a "no wrong door" approach. • Improve coordination between council services and community organisations.
<p>Co-ordinate the use of public buildings and amenities</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure smooth transition and continued access to community services as the Lochgelly Town Hall, Lochgelly Centre and St Andrews Church undergo changes. • Develop a holistic plan for the use and programming of these key public facilities to maximise their impact and service the diverse needs of the community.
<p>Utilise empty/underused spaces for community benefit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options to repurpose the aging Lochgelly Town Hall as a multi-purpose community hub.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly communicate to the Lochgelly community the costings, challenges and opportunities for each outcome and option for the aging Lochgelly Town Hall and its current condition for the community to make a more informed decision on its future use. • Clearly communicate to the Lochgelly community the refurbishment progress of St Andrews Church and its completion certificate and/or issues with the building. • Activate other vacant buildings and spaces, including the Salvation Army building for community use, events, and services. • Clearly communicate how community organisations could become key holders and access and utilise empty spaces even if this process may be challenging.
<p>Invest in Lochgelly's infrastructure and public amenities</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade sports and leisure facilities, including the Lochgelly High School and Lochgelly Centre. • Improve accessibility, safety, and attractiveness of public spaces and green areas.
<p>Foster community cohesion and partnerships</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate regular community events and activities that bring together diverse groups and ages, including an open day with taster sessions at the Lochgelly Centre. • Encourage collaboration between community organisations, local businesses, and the council. • Undertake a mapping exercise of everything that currently exists in the area including activities, amenities and staffing including gaps.
<p>Address cost-of-living challenges</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide accessible support and services to help residents manage rising living costs. • Explore ways to make community facilities and activities more affordable for all.
<p>Enhance health, wellbeing, and mental health support</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand access to fitness, recreation, and therapeutic programmes for all ages. • Integrate mental health services and resources within the community.
<p>Review and respond to all of the proposals, ideas,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build trust and communication with the community by responding to all proposals and questions. Note that not all ideas will be in this executive summary.

<p>nuances, and questions in this report</p> <p>”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain decisions including budget constraints and reasoning for action or non-action.
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These recommendations reflect the community's vision for Lochgelly as a vibrant, inclusive town that provides lots of opportunities for people of all ages to access support, engage in leisure and learning activities, and come together. Implementing these ideas will require a collaborative, cross-sector approach, drawing on the strengths and resources of the council, community organisations, businesses, and residents.

Let's Talk About Lochgelly Workshops for Community Planning

The following workshops were held and hosted by neutral facilitators Annie Cook and Rachel Nixseaman from Deciding Matters to ensure opportunities for organisational stakeholders to provide input into Lochgelly Town Planning. The workshops were held at Lochgelly Centre on Friday 11th October and Friday 18th October 10am-1pm.

Participants were made up of organisational stakeholders who lived and/or worked in the Lochgelly community. Fife Council led recruitment and identified the key audience for engagement. Workshop 1 had 15 participants in attendance and workshop 2 had 16 participants in attendance with a couple of participants coming and going.

Workshop Process & Agendas

Workshop 1 was the first meeting of the Lochgelly team, which aimed to:

- Understand Fife Council's restrictions and challenges with regards to community planning and the use of community spaces/buildings.
- Identify a vision for Lochgelly community and its spaces that balance environmental, economic, and social impacts for the good of the community and its people (e.g., good investment, good for the community, practical, feasible)
- Identify the priority challenges the vision for Lochgelly community might face e.g., can't address everything in the area, budget restrictions, historical ties.
- Produce a set of prioritised ideas on functions for the area they wish to see Fife Council review to take forward for change.

Workshop 1

09:30-10:00 Coffee/tea welcome

10:00-10:10 Welcome & Introduction - Annie

10:10-10:20 Lochgelly Community Planning – Annie-Marie Vance, Fife Council

10:20-10:50 Icebreaker & Hopes & Fears Activity – Table Facilitators

10:50-11:05 Q&A

11:05-11:40 Vision Planning for Lochgelly – Table Facilitators

11:40-11:50 BREAK

11:50-11:55 Vision Planning feedback to main group

11:55-12:40 Lochgelly Priority Ideas– Table Facilitators

12:40-12:55 Prioritising and Starring Ideas.

13:00 Next steps and close

Workshop 2 was the second meeting of the Lochgelly team, which aimed to:

- Produce a list of developed and prioritised ideas to take forward in Lochgelly with regards to community planning.
- Identify a list of challenges, opportunities, and ideas for the use of the Town Hall, Lochgelly Centre and St Andrews Church.
- Identify a prioritised set of actions and ideas to take forward for the use of the aging Town Hall and its space.

Workshop 2

09:30-10:00 Coffee/tea welcome

10:00-10:10 Welcome & Introduction - Annie

10:10-10:25 Icebreaker & Independent Reading

10:25-11:15 Refining and Developing Lochgelly Priority Ideas – Table Facilitators

11:15-11:45 Idea Selection and Categorising Ideas (car park, quick win, top three ideas) – Table Facilitators

11:45-12:00 BREAK

12:00-12:35 Town hall, Lochgelly Centre & St Andrews Church – Table Facilitators

12:35-12:50 Aging Town Hall Voting Exercise

13:00 Next steps and close

Workshop 1 Summary Report

Please note that the following is a summary report of what has been captured from workshop 1 and does not capture the full complexity of the issues discussed. Deciding Matters will cluster all themes

and ideas from both workshops after workshop 2 which will be shared with participants for review and feedback before being made into a final report and going to Fife Council.

Discussion 1: Hopes & Fears

Hopes

Participants highlighted a list of hopes that they see as essential in making progress for the development of Lochgelly.

- Better use of public spaces and better communication on its uses
- Having events on such as ceilidhs or film nights that involve a lot of people.
- Key groups are supported in the area such as Lochgelly Lunches
- Cross-fertilisation of joined up working and raise each other up – organisations working collaboratively.
- Help everyone that needs help and take away isolation through having a variety of activities.
- Getting kids off the streets – more clubs for young people, place for young people in the evenings, decent youth hub
- Garden facilities
- Bus trips for days out
- Venues operate for the people of Lochgelly not the council.
- Shelter and seats in bus stops – improved infrastructure
- Somewhere that can become community orientated.
- Community cohesion and work in partnership coming to fruition – create.
- Community led services – integrated services – fife council officer.
- St Andrews Church coming into use and being operational as a community space.
- Outreach youth workers
- Make spaces safer.
- Businesses coming to the town.
- Have more empty space to use.
- More creative workshops at Lochgelly Centre
- Make use of the community space, create space, programme activity what we do with vacant spaces -regenerate.
- Action taken to address vandalism particularly in public park.

Fears

Participants highlighted a list of concerns and fears that they see as essential in making or blocking progress for the development of Lochgelly.

- We turn into a commuter town or work ground.
- Buildings are shut/under-used – swimming pool shuts down often.
- Not asset-rich in Lochgelly – we need more – a venue from cradle to grave.
- Worried Lochgelly Lunches will be homeless – we need a space.
- Space for flexibility – Lochgelly Lunches and kitchen.
- Organisations are working in silos – not using funding efficiently.
- Not doing enough to give people hope – we need to focus on where they can go for help.
- Basic shelter/comfort facilities such as bus stops.

- Nothing for elderly.
- How the council communicate with the community – being told a building is being shut down through a survey.
- Community spirit – lack of public engagement, isolation, and exclusion.
- Financing youth hub and facility space
- Financing use of spaces
- Kids become disheartened.
- Empty shops making the area look run down.
- Town hall left to go derelict.
- What happens if the Town hall closes – where are the activities going to happen?
- Taking such a long time for St Andrews to get handed over to council.
- Misuse of public spaces particularly public park – community police to work crowd, more lighting.
- Not enough free room space due to lack of community space
- Why do these community meetings only take place at night when people are working?
- Salvation Army Hall – be great if it could be saved for functions.
- LinKing – with Com Sen?

Discussion 2: Q&A

This was an independent activity for participants to think about questions for Fife Council with regards to Lochgelly infrastructure, budgets and future community engagement considerations and an open discussion with Fife Council (Sarah Roxburgh and Anne-Marie Vance in attendance).

*Please note – we have tried to capture the verbal discussion per verbatim but there may be things missing.

Q.1 Why are the meetings held during the day? Working people can't attend.

A. *It's a fair observation that the majority of sessions take part in the afternoon/early evening, but officers attend other sessions. We have added an evening drop-in session for the public. These two workshops were by invite for groups using the facilities, for example youth workers going into schools. The council is relying on groups and word of mouth to promote events and workshops like these. We use social media promotion which has resulted in increase in class attendance and processes (like PB - participatory budgeting). We know not everyone can engage online though.*

Q2. Is someone co-ordinating the closure of the town hall with the opening of St Andrews Church? Will existing group in the hall be provided with suitable space in the church? Are the Lochgelly Lunches assured a space at St Andrews?

A. *We're looking to create a community hub style and work will be done to coordinate with the groups. Building availability has been delayed out with council control – awaiting completion certificate. No dates available at the moment. Cannot guarantee groups having the same amount of space but information will be shared as soon as it can be.*

Q.3 What's outstanding from the X (2010) and what's complimentary to this exercise?

A. *Not sure, activity was done before we were in post. Will find out.*

Discussion 3: Vision Planning for Lochgelly

Participants discussed in groups the following: What are some of your most ambitious ideas for Lochgelly community? Consider the use of spaces and how buildings could be better utilised. The purpose of this is to think creatively, broad, and bold.

- How can people in the community work together?
- How can all assets/buildings work together?
- How can we invest in the future? Needs & themes?
- How we target resources the best?

Both Groups combined:

How can people in the community work together/assets work together?

- Representation of voices.
 - We are missing voices – youth.
 - Community council to bring groups together weekly – representation of groups on the council.
- More activities for all ages - Intergenerational activities.
- PB event – voting on proposals bring groups together.
- Lochgelly lunches – enterprise day for young people, better pathways/exercise, a building everyone comes to.
- Community open day.
 - Community open day with presence of every local group.
 - Free 3 low-cost activities for young people (supervised).
 - Open days and fun days (have been run before but not well known).
 - Running events where groups are coming together and learn about local stuff.
- A hub for everyone/all activities.
 - Consideration and planning would need to be undertaken for suitability and preferences for groups being in at the same time, for example disabled groups and kids.
- Better advertisements/communications.
 - In-person communications – space to share with networks.
 - Local news – small leaflet through everyone’s door.
 - Ensuring activities are promoted and well attended.
 - Thinking about how we publicise and advertise events to/for all.
 - Need to assume that not everyone has access to the internet.
- Staffing.
 - Linking with com use staff and CLI staff delivery.
 - Local council officer based here regularly.
 - Engaging with partnership groups.
- Review of current activity and spaces and mapping best use.
 - Making use of facilities – program use – advertising looking at programmes within wider area.

- High school is community use but not many community activities happening – opportunity for more.
- Need a review of what’s available (e.g., sports hall space not available during panto). What buildings are available with the most appropriate facilities.
- Some groups misusing equipment’s/spaces resulting in space not being available instead of hosting inductions.
- Council ensuring programme of activity is offered space even if specific buildings are temporarily unavailable.
- How to encourage Lochgelly folk stay in Lochgelly.
- Engagement between communities and existing community spaces.

How can we invest in the future?

- ORR Valley housing association (funding?).
- Looking to local businesses to sponsor local community activity.
- Looking to local funding organisations.
- We need to have enough facilities for people, 2000 houses about to be built.
- Lochgelly pupils currently travel to Leven to learn mechanics and future work prospects – Lochgelly could have a hub like this. Young people currently learning how to do tech in the theatre etc – could expand this.
- Buildings more accessibly financially - discounted rates and breakdown of costs for groups.
- Open day for Lochgelly Centre with all activities – sign up at tables to events.
 - Bring more people in/make it busy with jewellery, pottery, dance, theatre, sports etc for different ages.




How can we target resources the best?

- Fife College outreach space – Miners institute.
- All activities must be across two buildings.
- CLD and cultural trust working in partnership.
- Staffing levels – Lochgelly centre could do more outreach.
- Private groups have taken over community groups – bring back community independent learning. Run concessions and adult education for all groups.
- Looking at activity programmes beyond Lochgelly and what can be replicated here.
- Making sure it’s not just who shouts the loudest getting the most.
- Utilising volunteers carefully – supported by volunteer organiser.
- Review of current activity and need to understand what resources are available.
 - Need more activities for young people (not just theatre and dance).
 - Need to address local need locally, can’t expect everyone to travel.
- Council needs to promote what is on offer (resources).



Discussion 4: Priority Ideas for Lochgelly

Participants discussed in groups the following.

Participants were each given two star stickers which they could place next to a discussion point to emphasise that for the individual participant, the starred idea was a priority.

Idea and star rating	What's in existence?	Challenges	Futureproofing
<p>Free / low-cost activities for young people (including swimming lessons at the school, job club for school leavers and alternative education classes and youth club in the Lochgelly centre)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1 school youth club used to run in the school but not anymore. • Swimming lessons at the school • job club for school leavers • alternative education classes and youth club in the Lochgelly centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School currently in temporary use by Cowdenbeath leisure centre – reducing local activities. • Current gap – no activities for young people • Short staffed or hard to find people for short hour contracts in the evenings. • 	<p>Costs shouldn't be a barrier for participation</p>
<p>Open day with taster sessions at the Lochgelly Centre</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lochgelly centre • Hyperclub offering facilities & activities 		
<p>Better Lochgelly Comms. Promotion and advertisement of activities, resources, events, and clubs (physical notice board near chemist & Lochgelly community news)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lochgelly community pages on Facebook • Cowdenbeath council page • Physical notice board • Fife voluntary action page • Lochgelly community news • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Our Cowdenbeath" on Facebook so some people miss posts and not everyone is on Facebook. • Limited options if not on Facebook • Someone is responsible and updates it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with the school to promote activities through daily bulletin. • Local media – newspaper good at promoting local events. • Want services to be well attended so they can continue to run. • Share promotion routes (such as how to add info to notice board)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job opportunities for young people to promote activities via social media. • Telling positive stories to the community through a newsletter once a month • Council puts up the month ahead for various clubs • Need Lochgelly specific Facebook group • Sharing match-funding opportunities
<p>Council officer based regularly in Lochgelly Centre</p> <p>★★★★</p>	Frontline officers based in other towns – local offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets need – lots of people without internet come here for help. • No wrong door – helps people but can take people away from their job description 	Track how often centre staff provide support regarding council services
<p>More youth innovative staff to facilitate activities. (including paid staff and training up volunteers)</p> <p>★★★</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid staff • Train up volunteers and young people to facilitate activities
<p>Sports facilities need updated (Lochgelly high school)</p> <p>★★</p>	Lochgelly High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs updated • CLD staff and budget and communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to invest in an outdoor Astro turf for everyone – we would

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More youth innovative staff • Community led clubs funded by council 	<p>need to discuss where would it go?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cheaper it is the more people would come
<p>Warm open welcoming space for socialising</p> <p></p>	Lochgelly Centre		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create opportunities for kindness and connection • Catering services to the community and mapping needs
<p>Using empty spaces (some council buildings sitting derelict, repurpose for local businesses/groups)</p> <p></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town hall closing down • St Andrews Church not yet open 	Need to source funding for the buildings and the groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empty shops could become a youth hub housing a range of services (clubs, sexual health etc) • Would like to see Salvation Army Building restored and in use by community. • Not leaving buildings for years without being maintained until it's too late.
<p>Development and work learning hub to support learning (vocational skills in trades, digital, mechanics and life skills to give people future prospects)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chunk of money to invest and would need to come from Scottish Government • Committed staff - governance 	

Please note: stars may have been placed next to the idea itself, the existing services, challenges or future-proofing elements. Deciding Matters has clustered the stars under the title idea for clarity.

Workshop 2 Summary

Discussion 1: Refining and Developing Lochgelly Priority Ideas

Using the list of prioritised ideas from workshop 1, the group spent some time reviewing them, working on them and seeing if there were any further ideas we would like to add to the idea list. The group considered if the existing ideas/new ideas would:

- Help Lochgelly grow and develop/support the future of Lochgelly?
- What could make this idea stronger?
- Have a big or small impact.
- Who does it benefit? (single or multiple groups of people)
- It might be/have short or long-lasting impact.
- It might tackle more than one problem.
- Does it attract people to Lochgelly?
- Could it support the local economy?
- It might require ongoing finance.
- It might already exist etc.
- What is already happening to address this challenge/issues?
- Does the idea have any challenges itself?

The ideas below are in no particular order.

Idea	Additional Information
<p>Use of Empty Spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be more community ownership of buildings. • Health and safety and risk training for community organisations to become keyholders of empty buildings. • Community ownership can be very complex and needs huge resourcing. Need to ensure that organisations are fully aware about what they are taking on and what support to expect. • What does it take to become a keyholder of a sit/building? • De-mystify the process of using buildings/logistics by having clear instructions on how to become a key-holder. • Fife Council: "These are the steps you could take to get use of the building" through a flow chart. • Ongoing maintenance not being done resulting in empty, unusable spaces e.g., the town hall. • Is there scope for empty buildings to be used until it gets used? For example, taster sessions in empty buildings • Takes too long to get into empty buildings. • Why not allow grace periods to get into empty buildings? • We want a list of empty spaces. (Lochgelly High School, St Andrews Church, Sheltered Housing, Salvation Army Hall, Retail Units, Civic Square) • A mapping of spaces and mapping sports provision and updated spaces?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community buying the Salvation Army Hall • Different rate to pay if building empty. • Spaces lying empty because of delays with policies/procedures. • Creating a youth hub and a space for older generations – somewhere with a kitchen • Looking at asset transfers for the community • What’s the plan for the Town Hall?
<p>Council officer based regularly in Lochgelly Centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People see the Lochgelly Centre as a council office and come for support. • Been promised a health and wellbeing centre. (*Health centre since 2011) • Their role would include signposting for activities, support and more using the no wrong door approach. • Community looking to speak to someone in person and expect to find them in Lochgelly Centre • No wrong door approach – communications support, face-to-face • Physical presence needed in Lochgelly. • Drop-in offer 2 days a week based in Lochgelly Centre. • Doesn’t have to be in Lochgelly Centre but someone in the town. • (Fife Council have said this is within possibility) What is within possibility, full time, part time and where?
<p>Free/Low-Cost Activities for Young People</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs one streamlined approach/channel to find out about monthly activities – this could be through the physical board and a digital app where multiple organisations can post (Welcome to Levenmouth example). The issue was that you have to go through My Cowdenbeath to get info. Each community needs their own exclusive space. • Contact student to see if they can set up the digital app as a project. • Communicating what’s on in the area. • Set up a Youth Community Council • More outreach youth work is needed. • Low-cost charge but have free for those who need it. • Needs to be funded properly – can’t add onto existing networks already at capacity. This needs explained further as there are less activities organised by CLD than there used to be, is it a funding issue for CLD? I appreciate that the delivery model in Lochgelly centre, (FCT), is different, but there has been a marked improvement and more support both practical and tangible has been given in the last year. • Promoting activities by asking schools first • CLD run free provision across the area – people drop out because its free/don’t see the value. This needs evidence/explained further. • Linking partners such as SDS, Clued up, YMCA etc. Having a collective approach

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking young people what they want to do – mapping young people’s needs and organisations such as CLD, Hyperclub, Cultural trust can divide activity workload. How could activity workload division can work in practice based on each partners funding/remit?
<p>More youth innovative staff to facilitate activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of what’s going on for organisations and young people – sharing platform • Digital more successful with young people and school bulletin • CLD – junior youth club – transition to community issues and can come back as young volunteers and facilitate. Is this happening in Lochgelly? It happens elsewhere. • Emailing out and physical presence needed. Word of mouth is the best method to engage people into activities. • Cowdenbeath Area Partnership Board – council, groups, orgs – everyone sees. However, the public doesn’t know what this is. • National Theatre Scotland – co-created a production with students and staff so students could understand what it takes. • Keen to offer training to support volunteer training in sport and physical activity – Active Schools • Leadership programme – young people volunteer we need opportunities. • Finding volunteers to run activities is difficult. • This idea needs to happen after a map/review of youth needs i.e., “we want training in mechanics” – find a mechanic to support this. Why has this not happened yet? • Work placements in Lochgelly Centre, Fife Leisure, link with schools for example health and wellbeing and becoming a lifeguard. • Accrediting young people (e.g. youth achievement awards). Such as annual YOSCARS.
<p>Open Day with Taster Sessions at the Lochgelly Centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need appropriate planning to let the community know the event is happening. • Timing- not during standard office hours • Need one person to coordinate this – Lochgelly Centre should hold it. With 50% support from Fife Council – partnership approach. • CLD representation • Use the town hall to utilise larger space and highlight current state of the building. • Does it need to be in Lochgelly Centre? • Need wider representation of community stakeholders who have historic relationship with the town. • Promotion from Lochgelly Centre team about services and offers. • Collaboration with the council and groups to ensure every group is able to attend and showcase their service and activity. • Open day co-organised and run in Town Hall Centre

<p>Warm, Open Welcoming Space for Socialising</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups showcase rather than taster sessions. • Warm welcome budget available. A list of groups who were given the support and what has been delivered needs advertised more. • Need staff supervisor for young people. • Where do we go? Getting the word out – what day/time – a banner • Need to be able to spend time somewhere comfortable without need to spend money. • Don't want to sit in one place and be watched by staff. • Lots of services currently providing warm spaces – funded through the council. • CLD space at the existing sheltered housing • Salvation Army Hall could become an ideal youth hub. Building condition in the past has been an issue but has been successfully used in the past for youth venue. • Lochgelly Centre available as a warm space until 9am – sockets and space at purple couches. • SAMH funding ran out but Lochgelly Centre continuing to provide teas and coffees. • If you're just sitting in a building there's not much to do – need games, TV, an extended living room.
<p>Sports Facilities Need Updated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making best use of existing spaces • Having kitchens as well as sporting spaces – Lochgelly High School. • Facilities lacking in Lochgelly – high school is lacking, centre needs upgraded. It needs to have programmes to encourage people to use the facilities. The building and programmes have been allowed to run down e.g., gym. • What can you use St Andrews Church for? Climbing wall? Need a commitment to ensure the wall is kitted out. • Need activities for kids and families that doesn't cost a lot. • Need roper outdoor sporting spaces (e.g. Astro) • Ternin Gym - engaging with school. • No overlapping/coordinating spaces/uses/activities. • Need and want for community events. • Astroturf needs updated said this summer but when will it be done? • Need a full-sized Astroturf. • £1m budget aside to complete the climbing wall. Also for the conclusion of the Charette commitment to St Andrews church and the civic space outside. • Lots of indoor gyms but they're all private. Why is there not a fully equipped gym in Lochgelly High Community like there used to be?

<p>Development & Work Learning Hub</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a physical building needed? Just needs comms. • Lochgelly West Primary School – classroom and used portable ovens used for classes. • Council Officer can act as coordinator to point and sign-post and deliver where needed. • Make use of existing sheltered housing space • Hyperclub have a kitchen/facilities. • Full time education worker based in Lochgelly High School • Health and life skills classes e.g. cooking on a budget. • Only place cooking classed can be delivered is the town hall (the school?) • Vocational skills and learning not community use classes Easy P programme. • Need dedicated adult education team for people who have left school – without basic reading/writing skills. • 16 plus helps people find a next step. • Need a joined-up approach for support and a quality place for people to go – led by area management. • Adult basic education – comms, numeracy, SQA • Lots of potential locations available just need to be utilised – it would be useful to list all potential locations. • Fife Council, Fife Voluntary Action, Hyperclub.
<p>Better Lochgelly Comms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council builds noticeboard physical. • Analytical data to see what’s working. • Council officer responsible for Lochgelly noticeboard • Streamlined approach – QR code takes you to the digital app. • Linking with existing networks – e.g. parent councils, churches etc. Salvation Amy Outreach Workers • Schools connecting to parents/guardians via text notifications – parent council good at promotion. • Community council local park survey comms as good example – speaking to local orgs, promoted on pages, QR codes – launched at gala. • QR codes easier than a link • Good local response from posting QR codes in physical spaces. • Noticeboard would need designated people to keep it up to date. • Well informed Facebook pages • Library does a great job at keeping people up to date. • Need to unpick Lochgelly from Cowdenbeath for local news.

Discussion 2: Idea Selection and Categorising Ideas

The group were asked to consider each of these ideas and place them into three categories:

- **CAR PARK** – these are ideas that might be great but are for future consideration, e.g., they might be difficult to implement right now or in the next year for example due to budget restraints.
- **QUICK WINS** i.e., easy to implement within a year, are low cost or are already part of existing plans.
- **TOP THREE** – these are your groups main three proposals that you absolutely want to be implemented. This is not to say others will not be taken on board, but it is to prioritise the ones that are the most important to you as a group.

The group consensus was to not undertake this exercise and decided that all the developed ideas were of equal priority to implement.

Discussion 3: Town Hall, Lochgelly Centre & St Andrews Church Uses Discussion

Lochgelly Centre, Town hall & St Andrews Church Functions/How they co-ordinate

- Utilising Lochgelly High School as a community asset
- Using the athletics equipment and outdoor spaces at the school
- Lots of private groups renting space – want to see more community events.
- Regular maintenance of all spaces
- Need kitchen space available.
- Reduce staffing rates to have spaces available.
- Open the school in the evenings as a youth space.
- Re-open the P.E café at the school.
- Want to be able to access free hires.
- Look at what each asset has to offer and reduce duplication.
- The community here deserve the same level of facilities as other local town but there hasn't been the same level of investment.
- See the spaces as complimentary rather than competing.
- Emphasising community use
- St Andrews still doesn't have a completion certificate so hard to plan. This wait is ridiculous! Who is responsible?
- Having more activities for CYP at the high school.
- Cheaper rental options (look at the maxwell centre for example cost structure).
- We should be able to have both – especially as the population is going to grow.
- Sell off the St Andrews Church to fund the Town Hall as a community asset.
- Are there examples of private investment to community use building?
- What used to run in the Town Hall?
- Building services decide what gets fixed and goes into disrepair because not many user groups.
- How many halls? How many stages (theatre)? What is their purpose?
- There are three buildings serving the same need? Needs to be integrated.
- Community need mapping first and then response.
- Can two buildings accommodate all the needs?
- St Andrews Church could be community space – is there equipment space? Accessibility? Parking?

- Refurbishment of St Andrews Church Completion certificate
- Not going to be a climbing wall but there is opportunity for it.
- Heritage Museum might be important (for Town Hall?)

Repurposing and use of the Town Hall

Note that there was no consensus on what should happen to the Town Hall and more information needs to be provided on options, costs, and potential outcomes to reach an action plan for the use of the Town Hall. Local residential participants in the workshop felt strongly that the Town Hall should be maintained/utilised and non-local participants felt that it could be demolished but understood the historical ties and connection local participants may feel.

- Building needed upgraded to be functional.
- Promoting multi-purpose use, not just available for one group
- Building should be open out with use times.
- Having trusted key holders to support community access.
- Nicer accessible facilities
- Space not known by all participants as its not well used.
- Fix it!! Can the space be reworked and modernised?
- Add a second floor to create more space.
- Section off pillared area to create small meeting rooms.
- Need to attract people to the space.
- Legacy project of Town Hall
- Can't be green space as it's on main road but would like it to be something.
- Inverkeithing stories of past maybe Cowdenbeath?
- Historical Trust could invest in it?
- Community funding/pooling together not viable
- Development hub – could apply for funding to use the Town Hall for this purpose.
- It has to be privately funded.
- Buildings that sit too long get set on fire – needs decision sooner rather than later.
- Unless we could get the building for free it doesn't affect us.
- If take the sentiment out of it – knock it down and use it for the community.
- A lot of green spaces already – this space needs to be specific.
- Curiosity around it but not invested in it.
- Something definitive so it doesn't sit empty/rotting.

Additional Community Engagement

Alongside the work carried out by Deciding Matters, Fife Council designed and delivered complimentary activities. The outputs from these activities have been included in this report for transparency.

Lochgelly Consultation Drop-in Summary 24th October 2024 – Designed/Delivered by Fife Council

The following drop-in was held by Anne-Marie and Sarah Roxburgh from Fife Council to ensure opportunities for the public to provide input into Lochgelly Town Planning. 13 people were engaged in the public drop-in.

Hopes

- Replicate companion club (Benarty Centre)
- Support system for mental health
- Safe space for mental health required.
- Indoor market – farmers market
- Silent disco
- Computer skill classes
- More provision for elderly
- Discos at the townhall 14–18-year-olds
- Activities for young people
- More sports, drama, fencing, music
- Xmas Lunch for the elderly
- More for young mums e.g., baby massage
- Walking group

Fears

- New houses – lack of support services dentists, doctors
- No infrastructure to take new housing developments.
- Demand on health centre – (new housing development)
- Housing, transport, facilities
- Too many houses – sink holes in the area.
- No social housing in the area, we need more.
- Environmental fears and protect our wildlife.
- New housing development might cause flooding.
- Under investment particularly Lochgelly town hall
- Young people feeling the need to have to leave the area.
- New medical centre will never be delivered.
- Housing development
- Not enough shops (supermarket needed)
- People abusing services. E.g., taking free food when not needed
- Civic space – LTH too near to main road for this to be a civic space.

Ambitions/Vision

- Shared Festival with Rockore.
- More visual marketing needed in the town but not all digital – need paper too.
- Better advertising required – use trailer boards outside Lochgelly Centre
- Gym facilities – ideally in Lochgelly Centre. E.g., ballet classes, gymnastics etc
- Community spirit is good – need to find a way to use this more positively.

- Would like to see Fife Council Facebook page promoting locality information.
- Flexibility of indoor facilities - if the young people are doing things outdoor but weather is bad, they should be able to move inside.
- More in the centre of Lochgelly rather than away down at the school
- Venue they can use for Weddings/Events/Parties doesn't have to be LTH could be St Andrews
- A training kitchen that people can use for things like cooking on a shoestring (like Temple Hall)
- Some cycle paths.

Barriers/challenges – how do we overcome these?

- Everything online
- Real lack of awareness of what's currently running
- Transport issues – 2 buses to get to a dentist.
- Car parking concerns at St Andrews Building
- Lack of parking in general to park when people want to go to activities.
- Lack of resources/funding
- Lack of shops and petrol stations
- Lochgelly Theatre is not being used.
- Too much promotion online
- People do not know you can hire the hall at Lochgelly Centre
- People feel they can't access LTH as utilised by one group.
- Cost is a barrier especially the Lochgelly Centre
- Access to transport
- Café at Lochgelly Centre closes too early.
- Dial a bus doesn't come to Lochgelly.
- Park and Ride at capacity and not enough spaces at the train station

Assets (Lochgelly Centre, St Andrews Building Lochgelly Town hall)

- Community use of Lochgelly Centre
- No shows at Lochgelly Centre (not like before)
- Nice centre but underused.
- Movie nights at Lochgelly Centre – cost is a barrier.
- St Andrews Church – pursue climbing.
- Want to see Lochgelly Centre back into the council.
- Sell LTH and use common good funds for the benefit of the community.
- LTH could be flats.

Let's Talk About Lochgelly Youth Engagement 16th October 2024 – Designed/Delivered by Fife Council

The following youth engagement was held and hosted by Chelsea from Fife Council to ensure opportunities for young people to provide input into Lochgelly Town Planning. 18 young people were engaged with via a workshop and 46 young people were engaged at an evening family event.

What activities would you like to do in Lochgelly?

- Friday night discos
- More movie nights

- After school activities in primary schools
- Free activities during the holidays
- More youth club trips
- Swimming
- Multi sports for younger people
- Library sessions in the holidays
- Soft play

What would make Lochgelly even better?

- More for young people
- Drop in for young people.
- Earlier times for youth club during the winter months
- A place for young people to go to have fun.
- Safe spaces for young people to hang out.
- Better swimming pool
- West Park – better play equipment

What activities do you already do in Lochgelly?

- Scottish Sports Futures (SSF) Friday night girls' group
- Intermediate Youth Club
- St Patricks school dance team

How do you feel about living in Lochgelly?

- Like it family here
- happy
- Friends are here.
- Moved from different country and find it welcoming.
- Like the parks
- Enjoy the library.

- More gyms in Lochgelly
- Aerial dancing
- Gymnastics
- Different venue for junior youth club
- More welfare support.
- Fun days
- A baking club for young people

- More parks at the bottom of Lochgelly
- Lochgelly West PS – better playground facilities
- Movie theatre
- Girl guides/Brownies
- More stuff at the parks
- Lochgelly girls football team
- Astros
- Free swimming lessons
- More youth clubs.

- Junior youth club
- Art club for young people
- Junior youth club
- Football groups for young people

- Lived here 5 years and no issues – enjoy it.
- Good
- Not as good as it used to be.
- Thumbs up
- Good and good takeaways

Let's Talk About Lochgelly Online Survey 16th September - 6th October 2024 - Designed/Delivered by Fife Council

The 'Lets Talk Lochgelly!' online survey was held and hosted by Fife Council from 16th September until 6th October, seeking to gather feedback from the community on what activities, services, and programmes they would like to see in the future. It also considered the public facilities within Lochgelly, and what the community would like to see in the future.

The survey was promoted on social media, both through the Council's own pages and shared via other community group pages. Posters were displayed in public buildings, on the street and in bus shelters, which included a QR code and short web address to help people access the survey.

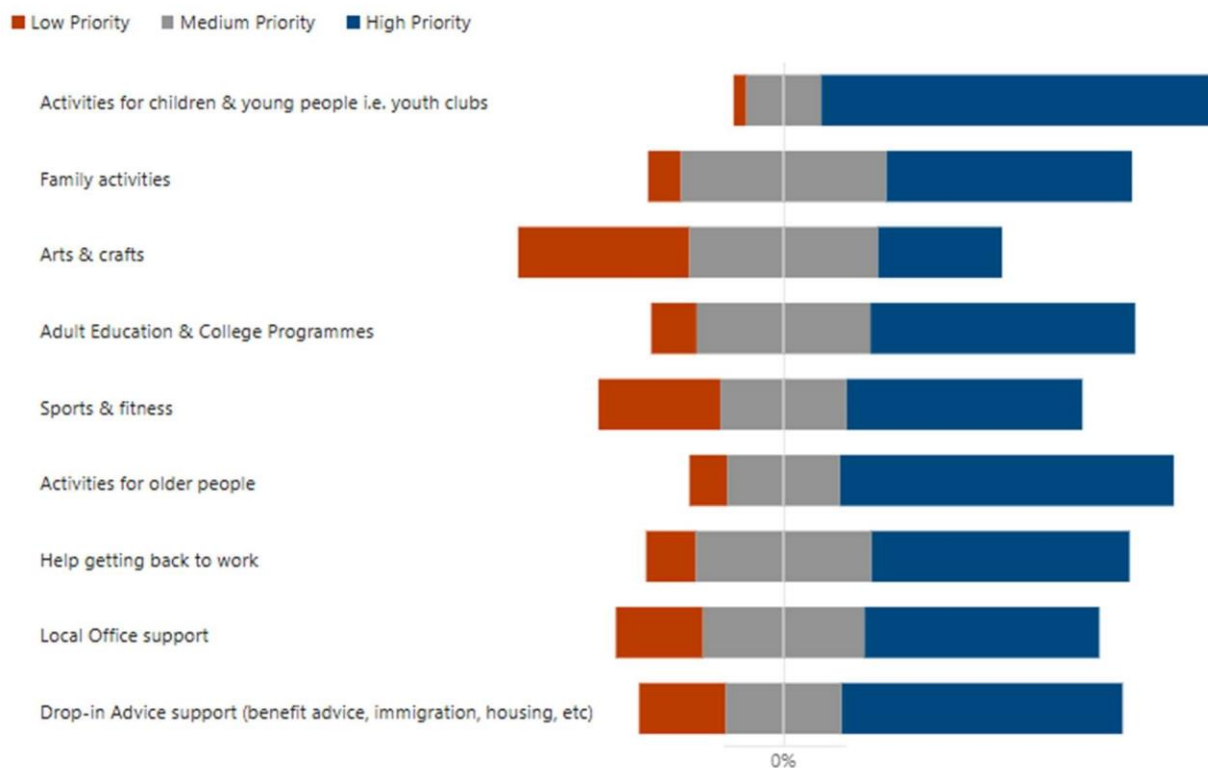
This report was compiled on 7th October 2024, at which point 124 responses were received.

The survey had a number of closed and open questions, so the community had the opportunity to provide some qualitative responses about their wishes for the area. These have been summarised within this report, but the full set of responses is provided at the end of this report. Some of the comments with names and personal information have been redacted by Fife Council due to the nature of the comments.

This survey was part of a larger consultation on this topic as one of a suite of methods to gather feedback and ideas.

Survey Responses

1. What activities or services would you like to take part in or see within the Lochgelly area? Please let us know if you feel each of the following are a high, medium or low priority.



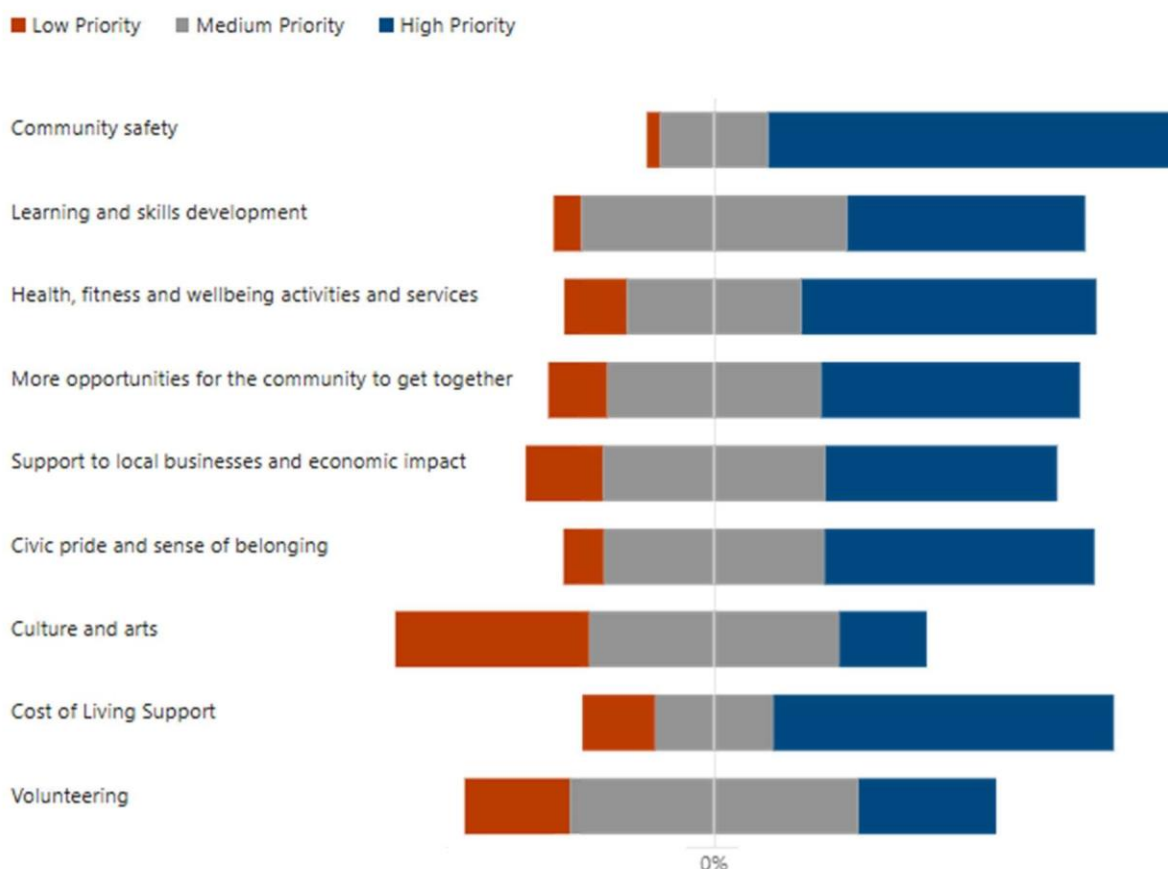
The top 5 priorities are:

1. **Activities for children and young people**
2. **Activities for older people**
3. **Adult education & College Programmes**
4. **Help getting back to work**
5. **Family activities**

2. If there are other activities or services you would like to see within the Lochgelly area, please let us know what they are here.

- Town hall being put back into use for parties.
- An affordable supermarket
- Pump track for bikes and scooters
- A Community Garden
- A new health centre catering for the people of Lochgelly with access to G.P.s, nurses, O.T services, podiatry and mental health services.
- An affordable supermarket and petrol station
- The creation of a family hub where people can get support from each other, and support services can visit for example welfare officers.

3. Thinking about the Lochgelly community - what key themes do you feel should be focused on going forward? Please let us know if you feel each of the following are a high, medium or low priority.



The top 5 priorities are:

1. **Community Safety**
2. **Cost of Living Support**
3. **Health, fitness and wellbeing activities and services**
4. **Civic pride and sense of belonging**
5. **Learning and skills development**

4. Please let us know of any specific ideas you have which relate to the high priorities you've selected from the last question.

Sample of responses:

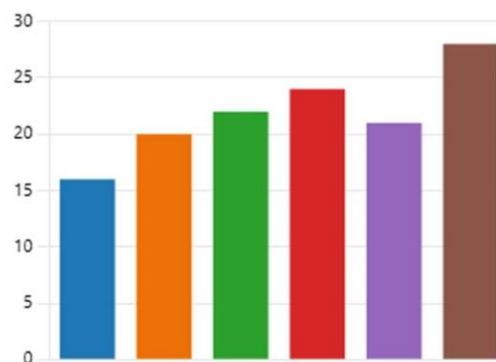
- A lot of people need help as there is a load of poor people in Lochgelly. Need help with winter after the allowance been stolen.

- As mentioned, health is more than physical. More mental health support is needed.
- Community clean up or presence from dog warden. Dog poo on the streets is totally out of control.
- Community fitness centre, outdoor fitness area, community fitness groups.
- Do not force unwanted new houses on Lochgelly. Get the infrastructure updated for the current inhabitants first.

- Get young people involved in taking care of Lochgelly.
- Invite children and youths to build their Lochgelly, empowering them, making them proud of where they live and what they contribute to.
- Lochgelly is poor in terms of support from Fife council. No help in the centre, used to be able to talk to people about worries like rent etc.
- Sports and fitness for health and wellbeing.

5. We'd like your thoughts on the future of Lochgelly Town Hall. As it currently stands, the building has reached its end of life as a community use facility. Unfortunately, we don't have the funds to update the building and bring it back into full use. Taking into consideration the various facilities and spaces in the area, we're keen to hear your ideas on the future of the Town Hall, or what alternative uses could be considered for the site. Below are some suggestions to consider, or please let us know your own ideas.

● Civic square with green space	16
● Small business units	20
● Grass area for community events	22
● Community shop	24
● Car parking	21
● Other	28



Other:

- Build a new community Centre with cinema and fitness centre.
- Hall hire as it was pre covid.
- Theme park with mining theme.
- Site for new health centre.

6. Do you have any other ideas for the building and/or surrounding areas which will become available?

Sample of responses:

- A community centre with disabled access for the use of residents of all ages.
- A grass area for kids to hang around too busy and loud next to the road. Too many shops already sitting empty and already have a community shop.

We have the centre for groups and clubs. Need to think hard about that one!

- A venue for Weddings. An area for hire for parties or events.
- Community garden or greenspace that is accessible to all.
- It is a community property overseen by the council and should remain this way.
- Kids play centre or gym.
- Pump track for bikes and scooters. Or a nice grass area with benches etc for elderly people to enjoy sitting in a nice space.

- Supermarket with petrol station as was planned a number of years ago for Lochgelly but like all other plans did not happen. Also stop wasting money on projects like town square there is a square already at the the cross which never get used properly except at Christmas.
- We need a community centre. We don't have one. So why are we expected to accept the demolition of the town hall. Or reconfiguration to a shop or small business centre. Can we get the Lochgelly Centre back to what it used to be, bursting with activities?

7. Would you be interested in being involved in shaping and supporting community projects and programmes in Lochgelly?



Full list of responses to open questions.

Not everyone who responded to the survey left specific comments, but all the comments which were provided are listed below.

Q2) If there are other activities or services you would like to see within the Lochgelly area, please let us know what they are here.

A Community Garden

A good doctors and dentist service

A GP surgery that is fit for purpose, swimming facilities that are dependable and open year round that do not close during the school holidays when kids have free time to go swim. The addition of the climbing centre would have been great for the town

A health centre, fit for purpose

A new doctors surgery fit for purpose, basic town infrastructure updated to be of a good quality for existing inhabitants of Lochgelly and the new folks constantly moving in
A new health centre catering for the people of Lochgelly with access to G.P.s, nurses, O.T services, podiatry, and mental health services.
A new Health Centre with additional support for health education and advice clinics
A new health centre.
A permanent advice service in the town. Not enough childminders
A proper working health centre. Very high priority
An affordable supermarket
An affordable supermarket and petrol station
Anything for children with additional support needs
Art club for younger kids with Special Needs
Arts and crafts classes for kids
Better parking facilities
Bingo, clean the drains out, get a new location for Lochgelly lunches, discos
Breakfast club and after-school provision for primary school kids to help families with both parents working full-time
Cinema. Things to do
Climbing Arena
Climbing wall.
Clubs for older generation. Lochgelly Albert junior team start helping develop youth players in community
Creche' facilities. Lost the Salvation army and town hall
Crochet group, knitting class, family tree events, more group stuff to bring communities together
Dance class. Afternoon activities for elderly people esp in the winter.
Exploring green space, introducing walks and a decent youth club that is central and well connected to the community
Family fun days, rides, concert events
Fitness classes, e.g. Tai Chi, Palates, Yoga
Free educational courses for adults that can't afford college even though there is an income in the home
Get rid of the Labour cartel running the community council.
Health and nutrition, budgeting/finance

Health, Education and Leisure services and facilities needs seriously improved. Doctors' appointments extremely difficult to obtain, Lochgelly High School needs drastically update and the community use leisure facilities are literally falling down.
Housing people working in Lochgelly to give advice. Can't get people on the phone
How to manage your community group or charity.
I don't know what local office is. We need childcare that is affordable a creche mums and toddlers would be good as we lost the Salvation Army one.
Indoor playgrounds (private or state-run) especially for children aged 7-12.IT WOULD BE A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN LEARN WHILE PLAYING, WHICH CAN AFFECT THEIR FINE MOTOR AND THICK MOTOR DEVELOPMENT.
Indoor shared community space for families to be active, socialise and cook together.
Joined up working between services to ensure families are getting everything they need
Local office - have to go to Cowdenbeath. Police office- again have to go to Cowdenbeath
Low cost/free activities indoor for pensioners
Low level exercise for elderly.
Mental health groups
Mental health support
More space for organised clubs, get togethers, activities. Not enough in Lochgelly, what is happening with the climbing wall
More support for local sports clubs lots of money spent on new projects which fail when local clubs are struggling for lack of financial support and will also fold if nothing is done and will be more venues lying empty
mother and toddlers group. I cant take my wee girl to any as the last one closed with the Salvation Army.
Old people need help with cost of living. It is very lonely at times as I stay away at the top of the town it's hard to get anywhere. I go to Lochgelly lunches and it's grand to meet up and have a chat but that s only one day a week. I used to go to the salvation army on Monday and got a lovely dinner on a Monday but that is closed down now.
People getting together
Possible mixed age events with adults showing young people how to do handicrafts, crochet, and the like. Sharing memories of the past Lochgelly. Get the heritage group going again. record our past, present, and future
Pump track for bikes and scooters
Remove Lochgelly Centre from cultural trust into community use. Reopen Lochgelly high community use.
Return of the Blue Light Disco

Safeguards to ensure that community monies are for the community and not for Core Projects and Staff (EG Anti Poverty)
Services: Medical and dental services are under severe stress, with the proposed new Medical Centre being delayed time after time. These services provide community well-being and are the basis for a flourishing community. They are the top priority for Lochgelly going forward. This infrastructure is required before unsupported housing developments are even thought about.
Support and protect the library.
Support for children with disabilities and support for their families
Support for young families. I am single mum looking for creche,, preferably free to help me.
The creation of a family hub where people can get support from each other, and support services can visit for example welfare officers
The summer school programmes for children are not very good in Lochgelly, they are better in Cardenden why? The council don't provide family activities, why? There used to be a big focus on adult literacy provided in Lochgelly South school a number of years ago, where do people go now? Plenty gyms etc across Lochgelly, gym hall in the centre sits empty most of the year. Free use on Friday nights for young people to reduce antisocial behaviour. develop a befriends scheme for older people, making sure that it is secure.
This is a poor area self-explanatory
This is the 5th time I've filled this in! This means it's wide open to manipulation & skewed results.
Town hall being put back into use for parties
Upgraded swimming pool and a gym. Kids play centre
Would like to see money spent on the west park. Some money should come from the public park fund to help make this park better for young children who don't want to use the public park due to the teenagers
youth clubs. training for work

Q4) Please let us know of any specific ideas you have which relate to the high priorities you've selected from the last question.

A lot of people need help as there is a load of poor people in Lochgelly. Need help with winter after the allowance been stolen
A new community centre for use by all age groups
A new doctors surgery fit for purpose, basic town infrastructure updated to be of a good quality for existing inhabitants of Lochgelly and the new folks constantly moving in
All of these would help me
As mentioned, health is more than physical. More mental health support is needed
Community clean up or presence from dog warden. Dog poo on the streets is totally out of control

Community fitness centre, outdoor fitness area, community fitness groups,
Community gardens, vegetable etc
Community safety
Community safety in parks - have witnessed unsocial behaviour of children as young as 9-10 and heard about incidents of bullying
Community safety priority as the town has been trashed and terrorised by thugs especially around the park. One of your suggestions is to create a grassy space where the town hall is, really. This comes from people who have no idea about the issues in Lochgelly. There is a lot of poverty so I think there should be someone based in either the town hall, or the centre 5 days a week full time so people can pop in anytime for help.
Community safety, things have been bad in our area with youths being out of control, I would like to see community patrols to guide these children who are out and about getting into all sorts of trouble there energy needs redirecting we don't want these kids being adults with these violent and destruct behaviours in our community
Do not force unwanted new houses on Lochgelly. Get the infrastructure updated for the current inhabitants first.
Everything that would help community spirit in Lochgelly like used to be
Get something sorted about the bikes that are terrorising the place. Can we get police back on the street not in cars or call centres. maybe people would then feel safer and take a pride in their hometown. We need support for those who are struggling to eat and survive.
Get young people involved in taking care of Lochgelly
GP service
Have things on Friday Saturday Sunday for young people to keep them busy. Might stop the bad behaviour
I already volunteer but there are never enough. Need more advice centres as people are struggling with - bills, just life in general
I would like stocks & ducking stool. Seriously this form of consultation is poor. This is my 5th time completing this survey.
Indoor shared community space for families to be active, socialise and cook together.
Invite children and youths to build their Lochgelly, empowering them, making them proud of where they live and what they contribute to.
It would be Nice to have more time to get together ask it can be very lonely. Lochgelly used to be a very caring place with lots of things on, there is very little for the old and the young. There used to be lots of clubs in the centre with lots of good shows on but now you can't get a cup of tea past 2 in the centre, the library girls are good. I am to old to volunteer now or I would. Time to let some younger folks take over.
Local patrols by police officers. Support with cost of living. Health and wellbeing advice clinics

Local policing
Lochgelly has a high level of poverty, the above list is needed to tackle this blight.
Lochgelly is poor in terms of support from Fife council. No help in the centre, used to be able to talk to people about worries like rent etc
Make taking part in sports cheaper as they stress to expensive and are not used due to this. Also Lochgelly swimming pool at school is constantly unavailable to public
Make the streets safer for people to walk through day & night
More community events, more socialisation for the elderly, more sports classes or clubs for kids and adults to keep active. Things for families to do for those that don't drive.
More law enforcement
More police in Lochgelly. Need more people in work to give families hope
More police on streets. advice service needed
More police, more access to community buildings
More things for Labour councillors to badge as their own special projects.
My daughter is looking for a local arts and crafts class/club
Need people in the centre to give advice
Police on streets
Reflect on answer to 2 above
Refurbishing the west end park.
Speedwatch, Community Safety, More Police or CCTV coverage in known hotspots, Not so much leaning on mining heritage but more about where our new communities are going and growing
Sports and fitness for health and wellbeing
Stuff for kids with special needs
The priorities are self-explanatory Lochgelly needs regenerated.
The town should have a Christmas light switch on like other town, Lochgelly is getting bigger, but the people seem to be getting less. The gap between those who have and those who do not is widening, stop building houses when the infrastructure is already at breaking point. The level of anti-social behaviour at the public park at the weekends is abhorrent and needs to cracked down upon
Theatre and facilities in the Community Centre has good potential perhaps it could be utilised more and advertise what is going on. Encourage people living in the new estates to integrate.
We don't need more stuff for homeless and benefit takers about time the actual people who pay tax received something for the community.

We need to engage with community police and youth service to tackle the growing anti-social behaviour occurring in our outdoor spaces.

We need more regular town buses for the elderly to get around Lochgelly.

Q5) We'd like your thoughts on the future of Lochgelly Town Hall. As it currently stands, the building has reached its end of life as a community use facility. Unfortunately, we don't have the funds to update the building and bring it back into full use. Taking into consideration the various facilities and spaces in the area, we're keen to hear your ideas on the future of the Town Hall, or what alternative uses could be considered for the site. Below are some suggestions to consider, or please let us know your own ideas.

Build a new community Centre with cinema and fitness centre;

Can't have another use if it's reached the end of its life.

Car parking; Housing / flats

Church

Community use building;

Find the money yo keep the town hall, upgrade to a high standard so it can be hired for events eg. Weddings, birthday parties, meetings etc

Hall hire as it was pre covid;

I am sure that has already been decided;

I don't feel any of these are needed

I would not like to see the area abused or vandalised or have drug addicts, or youths hang about there. ;

Indoor area for community events and public use

It must be brought back for community use, funding must be a priority. If not, council funded explore other avenues.

it would seen the fate of the town hall has been decided by Fife Council therefore this question is pointless;

Money needs spent on this due to the neglect of the Council to maintain the building over the years

Moot question. Fate is decided;

No idea as we can't fill the business u it's elsewhere in the town, but the building should be retained as it has been a permanent fixture;

None of these. There is always an opportunity to resolve the condition of the hall. Millions spent in Ballingry , Kely and Cowdenbeath. It must be fixable.

Re-do the townhall, we need a townhall.

Sadly I feel it's current use as the pantry is needed most, food bank use seems a way of life for people now ;
Site for new health centre;
Small business units; Community centre for people to hire for functions;
Theme Park with mining theme
This makes no sense! How can you offer small business opportunities or a community shop in a building which is substandard, and you won't repair. This a token gesture. It is clear that FIFE council wishes to see the building demolished and off their hands. ;
This would be a huge loss to the area. Id like to see a community cafe developed for Lo'gelly lunches to continue. This building is off historical significance to the area. Could fundraising or grants not be utilised to preserve the building.

Q6) Do you have any other ideas for the building and/or surrounding areas which will become available?
A community centre with disabled access for the use of residents of all ages
A grass area for kids to hang around too busy and loud next to the road. Too many shops already sitting empty and already have a community shop. We have the centre for groups and clubs. Need to think hard about that one!
A townhall is necessary for the surrounding area, people need it for community events. People are being helped daily that need help what is happening with St Andrews church? It was redone for a climbing arena but is now sitting dormant. Why would the townhall being knocked down for parking, a civic square or a green area? that would be a waste. What other options are there? Why has it come to the point where the hall can't be saved? Surely this shouldn't have happened, letting it get to this point is a disgrace.
A venue for Weddings
Again, the local community not being able to using their own town hall is unforgivable. All options must be exhausted, and funding allocated to refurbish. The community will not and should not accept the council saying it's reached 'end of life'
An area for hire for parties or events
Any activity that allows children to do sports (any sport) or dance, socialize and stay away from the phone or computer will be beneficial. By socializing children in this way for two or three days a week, we can be effective in many areas such as children's self-confidence, personal development, and bilateral relations.
Any infrastructure needs to be future proof. This area must be used for the whole community and able to be accessed for the whole community.

Anything except for housing
Community garden or greenspace that is accessible to all.
Community use building for events and community use.
Do the hall up and get it back into use
Fife Council and its officers have been complicit and negligent in the run-down of a Common Good Asset, favouring to through £2.2m +++ into the Rockgelly vanity project which has no parking and has not been built for the community. The options you have provided above may be thought off as cheap but each one of them will gobble up 10s of thousands of pounds and are no value to the community.
Sell the land to a developer and at least get 2 or 3 social houses/flats out of it.
find the funding to return this Common Good Asset back to a usable attractive venue
Got a civic square, not looked after, Fife Council. Plenty small businesses in Lochgelly, Grass area, really, in the middle of a busy town with no outlook. Community Shop had one and it closed. Car parking, plenty in the car park across the road. Give the people of Lochgelly a good quality building open to all providing good quality services. If it needs to be the town hall and I think it could be a wonderful community building, if not get the empty centre back as a proper community centre.
I can put anything I like in here as many times as I want, your survey is open to abuse & manipulation. Should have used survey monkey
I don't like any of these ideas. It's not a place you would sit unless you are waiting for a bus. Is this to demolish our town hall
I don't want a green square, car park. There are plenty businesses in Lochgelly most struggling. We need a place where people can go to and celebrate like we used to at things like the Christmas light switch on, the weddings and other things. Is this an excuse to shut the Toon Hall.
It is a community property overseen by the council and should remain this way.
It needs to be something that brings money to the area. I've lived here 2 years and the only thing to be seen on the streets are dog poo, drug users and the by and large well-behaved teens that have nowhere else to go
It's dis grace that the town hall has been allowed to get into this state of disrepair, that combined with the misuse of funds in developing the red herring rockgelly. This should be investigated by higher powers I'm sure there has been some wrong doing here. My opinion is that funds should be found to restore the once great town hall and it should be used for community events.
Kids play centre or gym
Make it into main hub for our town weather becomes outdoor or indoor garden cafe
Maybe if Fife Council had taken care of it wouldn't be this state. Invest in the Hall

More things to do with the family/dogs
Multi-purpose indoor climbing and wellbeing centre, could be a really great initiative with the right support. Maybe just a warehouse for Lochgelly Lunches to store all the free food.
Need fixed
No it should stay as a hub to help those struggling with cost of living
No you will do whatever you choose at the end of the day anyway
None of the choices offered. Want a good hall that can be used. Why will the council not sort the hall
Pump track for bikes and scooters. Or a nice grass area with benches etc for elderly people to enjoy sitting in a nice space
Really don't care where the building is but want to know how I can get help and access to support
Ridiculous question, is this an excuse for Fife Council, to say the public just want their hall shut. This is offensive we are not stupid.
Salvation Army Hall
Scout hall -our scouts have had to join Cardenden.
See above
Somewhere for events i.e. kids parties. Move the remembrance statue & create a nice, seated area around about with fact boards about Lochgelly etc. A pop-up sensory garden although that could be done at the public.
Something that would encourage young people to get involved in to keep them occupied rather than causing trouble for the residents in Lochgelly.
Somewhere for family activities
Sort this town hall. I got married there.
Sports facility
Supermarket with petrol station as was planned a number of years ago for Lochgelly but like all other plans did not happen. Also stop wasting money on projects like town square there is a square already at the cross which never get used properly except at Christmas
The ideas given are terrible.

The Town Hall should be properly maintained and kept as is. Councils can find money/budgets when it suits them. I know, I'm a retired Council accountant. So no alternative uses are required. Closing the Town Hall is another negative move for Lochgelly, remembering that the Town House has already been decommissioned. This would take away a community asset and reduce community spirit in the town. Negative move.

These aren't reasonable options. Clean the hall up inside and out

This area MUST be kept for the community and not sold off. I'd like to see a community garden and a community cafe.

This embarrassment of a building is almost derelict because of Fife council, and this is just an excuse to justify closing or demolition under the guise of community consultation, shameful.

Using it for giving the flu vaccines etc was good. You don't make it clear what will be available in the building, e.g. will there be toilets, or is it just a covered space. WHO will look after the building and area? Will you rely on volunteers? Whatever is decided, it must not become a slum area and neglected. E.g. A few years ago a small group erected flower barrels in the street which were lovely. However, they were not supported and became sad wrecks. In my observation people want things to be done but not by them.

We need a big gathering place. Cafe Inc was great in the building if we turn the building into a car park where do all these folk go. It was a good community hall It is an awful mess now, why can't it be brought back into use.

We need a community centre. We don't have one. So why are we expected to accept the demolition of the town hall. Or reconfiguration to a shop or small business centre. Can we get the Lochgelly Centre back to what it used to be, bursting with activities?

We used to have mums and toddlers in the town hall, why can't it go back to that?

Whatever the outcome it MUST be driven from the local community.

When did the hall come to its end and why? It has been left to become derelict by Fife council. People want to use the hall as it used to be crèche, family events, fundraising.

Why ask the question if you say it's reached the end of its life. This is just an excuse to shut the place down you need to spend some money on it and bring it back to life. Terrible many years ago we had great events, weddings, Christmas Fayre, birthday parties and many more. It looks terrible outside is a shameful mess, you see it everyday you go to the coop.

Years of Fife Council neglect have rendered this building, which is part of the Lochgelly Common Good Fund inoperable. Questions 5 and 6 are an insult to the people of Lochgelly in that they are simply a box ticking exercise with absolutely no substance behind it!
Yes invest in the building. The suggestions are daft. We had a community shop which closed. There are plenty small businesses in Lochgelly. Look after the civic square where the miner is, it is a mess.
You need to provide places for people to attend events. not enough access as it is. This is presented as the Town Hall will be demolished and Lochgelly will get a bit grass or another car park, a community event square. Do these people know where the Town hall is?
Youth club or community shop/ cafe/community hub
Youth clubs and food banks relocated to the salvation army Hall

Additional feedback through direct emails to Fife Council

Participant 1

- Town House. Fife Council have failed in their duty of care to take appropriate care of the "Common Goods" asset and since 2018 have tried to write the property off. In reflection, given the run-down nature of the building that Fife Council have left the community with, it is most appropriate to sell it off to a development company for affordable/social housing and give the proceeds back to the Community (see below)
- Extract as many Fife Council and partner teams from Lochgelly Centre and reside them in the newly finished £2.5 million St Andrews Rockgelly building, giving the keys of Lochgelly Centre back to the Local community for as much "free" or "subsidised" use, as possible (See above fund diversion from the sale of Lochgelly Town House). Allow Lochgelly Centre to hold a Liquor Licence so that the multi games room can be fully utilised as a replacement "town hall" for weddings, functions etc.
- Lochgelly Miners Institute and/or Business Centre. I am unsure of who is still using this property as a business location and have little comment on this other than, if the above solutions are not suitable then maybe the Institute can be configured cheaply and easily for local groups to meet at little, or no cost? (Example: Community Council)
- Another available engagement is bringing college courses into the town. Lauder during the 90s used to run a number of courses locally in the west towns of Fife. I am sure Fife/Lauder etc did the same at BRAG a few years ago. It would be great to see College courses being run from here (vocational trades included?)

Participant 2

- Lochgelly and the wider community need an Events Building for parties, weddings, music events, sporting events, Christmas events Halloween events, dancing's events the list goes on. Lochgelly events co joined with zodiac school of dance would like to form a new

organisation to take over the Lochgelly town hall (through a participation request or other) and open it as an Events building for the whole community to enjoy, I do understand there's a consultation in place at the moment however we would like to set up a meeting with all involved to go over our proposal and business plan bearing in mind this would be a non-profit organisation setup something similar to ONfife.

- What support would the Cowdenbeath area committee be able to offer? I'm sure many of the councillors if not all would like to see this building used exactly as stated above.
- The old church would offer nothing in terms of an events space so good luck to Lochgelly lunches on the move.

Get in Touch

For more information about this process, or the work of Deciding Matters, please reach out via hello@decidingmatters.co.uk.